

From: newquist@speakeasy.org@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:24pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I've been watching the proceedings of the Microsoft anti-trust case for years now, and respectfully disagree with the proposed settlement. There are too many points to address fully, so I'll just point out the one that bothers me the most.

The proposed settlement doesn't do much to foster competition in the software market. We should require Microsoft to standardize and publicize the entire set of Windows APIs and the file formats of its Office applications, with the express goal of allowing competitors to build Windows software applications, and operating systems, that compete with Microsoft on a level field. This would greatly reduce the lock-in that Microsoft has on the consumer and businesses.

As an example, Intel and AMD have been successfully competing, with great benefits to the consumer, based on the open X86 CPU instruction set. I firmly believe that creating open standards out of the core Windows infrastructure would create similar benefits to consumers.

Sincerely,
Jeff Newquist
Computer Engineer
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